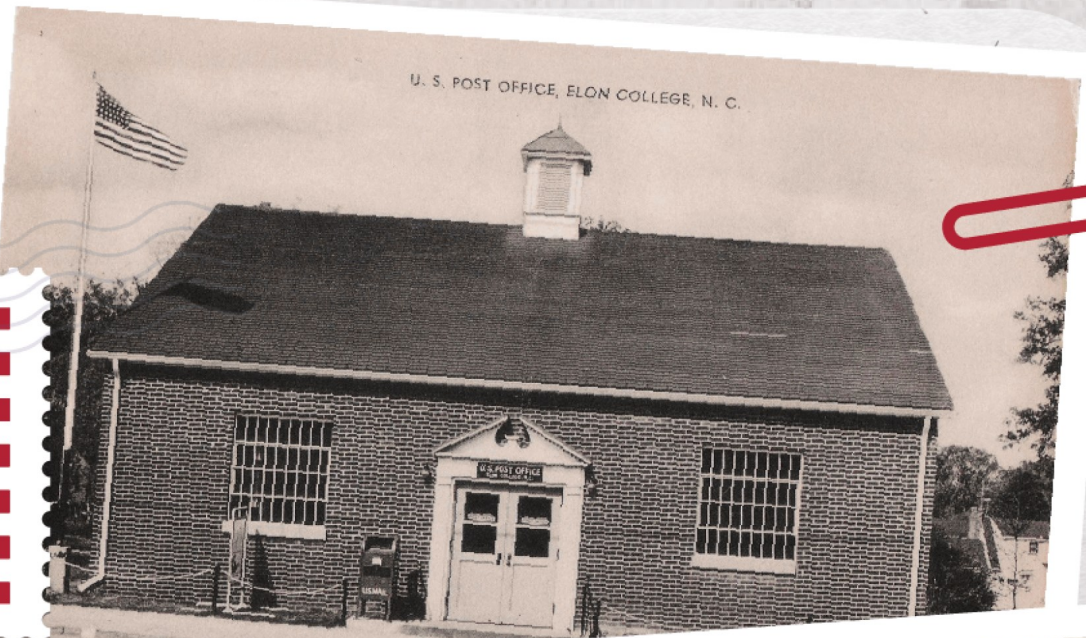


TAR HEEL TALK



Upcoming Program:
How Our Post Office
Created America



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NCLBPH STATUS DURING COVID-19



This pandemic has been hard on everyone, and many of you have taken the time to share with us how our closing had impacted your lives. We have heard your comments and concerns and have been working with our administration to try and answer them. However, the downtime has given our library the opportunity to add to our services.

During the time the library has been closed, NCLBPH has launched a chat service. People may now chat with our Reader Advisors Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 to 4:30. Our Reader Advisors have also started a Read-alike blog.

Our Digital Services librarian has started a podcast about our library. Staff that would normally have duties that can only be performed at the library, have been helping rate unrated books for their type of content. Some staff members have also been able to help prepare new Books on Demand Cartridges from home. Other staff members, their family members, and some volunteers prepared the previous issue of the Tar Heel Talk from home to be delivered to our patrons.

Unfortunately, we cannot have any volunteers at the library at this time. This

includes our studio volunteers. Until we are cleared to have volunteers return to the library, we will be unable to regularly produce talking books and magazines for BARD or NOBLE.

In July, our library was approved to have a limited number of our circulation department to return to the building to resume the shipping and receiving of books on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Since they have been able to return to circulation we have had one other staff member to return to work in our machine unit. On the days we have staff working at the library, they are maintaining safe social distancing practices. They are wearing their masks, and making sure only one person is in a confined room at a time.

When books are returned to the library, they go into a week long quarantine to make sure they are safe before sending them out to different patrons.

As we learn more about COVID-19, we plan to adjust the services accordingly so we can return to the previous services our patrons are accustomed to receiving.

Thank you for sticking with us. We look forward to hearing from you again.



Winter Reading Program



N.C. LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND
& PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

NCLBPH invites you participate in our Winter Reading Program!

- Begins December 1st, 2020. Concludes February 28th, 2021.
- Patrons ages 0-21 may register for the children's division
- Patrons over the age of 21 may register for the adult's division
- Everyone who reads at least 5 books will win a prize!
- The top 3 readers will win gift cards!

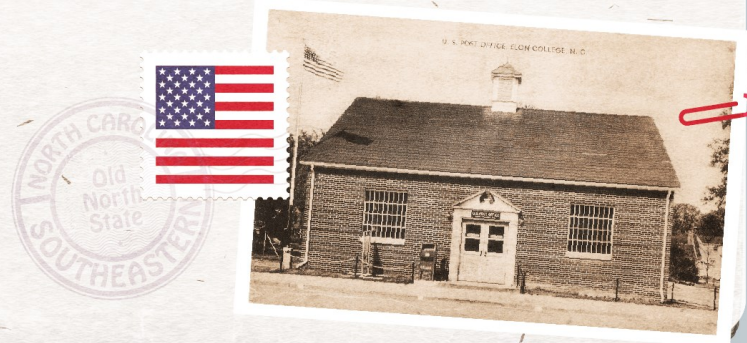
Ways to sign up:

- Webpage:
 - Kids—bit.ly/WR2020-KIDS
 - Adults—bit.ly/WR2020-ADULTS
- Email: nclbph@ncdcr.gov
- Live Chat: statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/lbph
- Leave a detailed voicemail at 1-888-388-2460

Zoom storytelling program

How Our Post Office Created America

Join the NCLBPH for a Zoom story telling program! Storyteller, Bill Stepien will deliver an exciting story of the role the post office played in creating our country!



“Since our founding as a nation, the postal office has been serving and creating our way of life. This program will explore early impacts on America, such as post roads and the pony express, to the possibility that “missile mail” is just around the corner. We’ll even consider if mailing your kids by parcel post could have been a good idea.”

After the story portion stick around for a Q&A session with Bill Stepien!

Thursday, December 10th 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM

This event will be open to 100 people, please register as soon as possible to save your spot.

Ways to register:

- Website: bit.ly/NCLBPH_WRK
- Live Chat: statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/lbph
- Email: nclbph@ncdcr.gov
- Leave a voicemail with your name and callback number at 1-888-388-2460.

Signing up for this event will also register you for our Winter Reading Program!

If room runs out, the program will be available on YouTube using the following link:

<https://youtu.be/acKcgFEJ1ns>

*This event will be recorded. If you are in the Zoom session, please leave your camera off to not be included in the recording.

STAFF PROFILE: MELISSA



We would like to have a warm welcome for Melissa Glass to NCBLPH! Melissa is one of our newest employees. She is joining the library as its Production Assistant. In this position she is responsible for—augmenting and maintaining title records in our database, verifying the number of copies and volumes of new Braille and Large Print books, creating records for the new copies of Braille, Large Print, DVD titles, and tracking and re-receiving all defective Braille titles to be returned for warranty replacement.

Like most of the NCLBPH staff, she is working from home. The staff has met Melissa virtually, but we look forward to the day when we can work with her in the same building and learning more about each other in person.

Q: Where are you from? What was your hometown like?

A: I'm originally from Nebraska, but I moved around for most of my life. I've lived in eleven states in the US and two countries. I've lived in both suburbs and cities.

Q: What has your work background been like? What did you do?

A: Before going back to school for my MLS, I worked a variety of administrative and odd jobs. Some of the more interesting jobs I've held were as a Piercer, Gourmet Foods Sales Assistant, Accounts Payable for a cake factory, Marketing Assistant for a mall, Christmas Elf and Archives Technician. One of my more memorable experiences was when I was living overseas in Malta. I ended up cataloging at the National Library for a while, the books were chained to the shelves and the walls were literally crumbling around me.

I then went on to process a collection of maps and architectural drawings from the 18th and 19th centuries. Getting to live and work around so much history was an incredible experience. More recently, I was a Library Assistant for Wake County for the last three years.

Q: What led you choose to work with us? How do you feel about the library's mission?

A: I've wanted to get back into cataloging for a while now, so when the position became available I immediately applied. And I am definitely drawn to the library's mission of providing services to the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Being able to provide a more personal experience to our patrons is something I am excited about and feels very meaningful.

Q: How does it feel to start a position that would normally be in the library from home?

A: Honestly the process has gone more smoothly than onboarding at previous jobs I've had. The technology is in place to do so much from home and I'm happy so many places are adapting. That being said, I've already met with all of my col-

leagues online but can't wait to meet them in person.

Q: Are you a pet person?

I have had both cats and dogs, but am more of a dog person. We had a dalmatian mix who we brought to Malta with her own passport. My pets are family members to me.

Q: What are some of your hobbies?

A: Reading (of course), traveling, interior design, spending time with my husband Brian and my son, Dorian. I also love going to thrift and antique stores.

Q: What are some books you have enjoyed?

A: I don't normally read fantasy, but this past year I have gotten into it and I loved "Gods of Jade and Shadow" by Silvia Moreno-Garcia. I also loved the Sixth World series by Rebecca Roanhorse. Anything by Jessie Burton is so good, but "The Muse" is my favorite of hers. My go-to genre is Gothic fiction.

FRIENDS CORNER

Dear Friends, Patrons, Volunteers and Staff,

The year 2020 is uniquely challenging for us all. Truthfully, sitting down to write this column was challenging. What can I say at this time that you would find useful? Then I thought, do you know about us? Do you know the Friends of the Library? Here is an introduction for the newbies and a refresher for all others.

In the words of our friend and past president Eddie Weaver: "Friends of the North Carolina Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (FNCLBPH) is a non-profit organization consisting of citizens, volunteers, and patrons all interested in supporting the library and the services it provides. We passionately support the mission of the Library by providing financial support to augment the state and federal funding received by the library. In many ways, the Friends bring extra help when it is needed most. The Friends understand the importance of literacy for all blind children and adults in the state and take every possible measure to make sure anyone who wants to read can read.



Friends are the volunteers who serve with passion instead of for paychecks. Friends are what make this country and its citizens great. Friends are organized and raise the funds we need to fulfill our mission. Friends are fun. Friends are the icing on the cake, the shoulder to lean on, and the people you turn to when you are in need. You can rely on a friend!"

Some recent examples of our support include:

In 2019 we purchased a new Braille Embosser for the Library so that they may create Braille materials more easily and in greater quantities for you the patron;



Friends of the North Carolina Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

We fund the production of this newsletter for the library;

We support the purchase of many new books and materials in large print, Braille, and audio;

We sponsor the annual Library Volunteer Recognition event;

We fund the Library run DVS club;

Soon we will be offering grants to organizations and projects that support literacy;

Our James Benton Braille Writer Program provides Brailers to persons with blindness or visual impairment who are in need;

...and so much more.

We would love for you to participate with us. Did you know that as a member of the Friends you could serve on one of our committees to support us, the library, and our missions? Please check out our website and become a Friend, renew your membership, or send a donation. Do you enjoy reading or listening to books, music, and periodicals? Help us to serve you and everyone in NC with blindness or a physical handicap. It is only \$10 annually and we put it to good use for you.

We would like to hear from you. What library interest or questions can the Friends address for you in this column? Email me at 3600sking@gmail.com or go to our website at <https://www.friendsnclbph.org/>. On our website you may click on the contact us link. I look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,

Susan L. King

Membership Online Application

To learn more about becoming a member of the Friends of NCLBPH visit:
[friendsnclbph.org/membership.php](https://www.friendsnclbph.org/membership.php)

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STAFF BOOK REVIEW

Dutch House by Ann Patchett, [DB96739](#) / Braille [BR22980](#)

This novel is about the lives of siblings Danny and Maeve Conroy, the children of World War II veteran Cyril Conroy and narrated by Danny. The Conroys lived much of their childhoods in The Dutch House, an old mansion in the suburbs of Philadelphia. Their father bought the house, along with its entire contents, after the death of its previous owner. Everyone in the Conroy family—even everyone who works there—seems to either love or hate it, to such an extent that the house itself seems to become one of the characters. The house even overshadows Danny’s and Maeve’s lives long after they leave it for good.

Ms. Patchett’s portrayal of Danny and Maeve’s close and complex relationship really brings them to life as they struggle to survive many difficulties brought on by the Dutch House. It’s a story about the siblings growing up largely on their own, not really knowing their parents or why their parents made the choices they made that brought them to the Dutch House or drove them from it, why their



mother disappeared early in Danny’s childhood, why their father was so distant, and how they ended up with the archetypal cruel stepmother.

When I read a review of the book, it highly recommended the audio version read by actor Tom Hanks— because he does such a beautiful job. In fact, this particular reading made the book a finalist in the 2020 Audie awards for audio books. And the NLS collection indeed has the commercial version read by Tom Hanks.

I highly recommend this book. It’s such a satisfying story with its excellent narrative, its well-drawn characters, and—if you listen to it— Mr. Hanks’s superb narration.

-Catherine Rubin

COLLECTION COMMUNIQUE

Starting this past Summer, we have begun circulating locally produced and distributed magazines via our Books on Demand program. These magazines will come to you on the same cartridges as the books that we are sending you. If you have not already done so, please call us at 1-888-388-2460 to customize which local magazine titles you would like to continue receiving.

In cooperation with the NC African American Heritage Commission and the NC Office of Archives and History, we are producing a Print/Braille version of MY NC From A to Z. This beautifully created, early-reader board book celebrates the pride of place, creates connections to North Carolina's rich African American heritage, and teaches children about human equality and social justice. A copy of this Print/Braille version will reside in our library and in every public library branch in the State.

We are pleased to announce the local recording and availability of two young adult titles, The Life and Times of Asheville's Thomas Wolfe and We Who Believe in Freedom : the Life and Times of Ella Baker. These two titles are targeted towards middle school readers and will educate readers on the lives of these two notable figures from North Carolina's rich history.

And now, a note about donations to us. If you would like to donate a title to our collection, please keep in mind the following guidelines:

- We love accepting Large Print donations! If you have a large print book that you would like to donate, please send it in or call us to request a bag to send it in.
- We love accepting Braille donations as well, with one exception. We tend not to add Braille Bibles to our collection because they just take up too much space on our shelves. A Braille Bible is on average 30 volumes. If you have a Braille Bible to donate, please call us so we can put you in contact with your county's social worker for the blind. He or she will probably know someone who would like to have it.
- We cannot accept any regular-size print books, as we are not able to circulate them. Please donate regular-size books to your local public library if possible.

DESCRIPTIVE VIDEO CATALOG

The library has an all audio version of the 2019 Descriptive Video Catalog. The catalog is a collection of all of the DVD's available today from the library. It is available from NO-BLE as a downloadable digital talking book so you can listen to it on your Digital Talking Book Player and from our Descriptive Video page on the website as a now playable MP3.

Listen Now – Descriptive Video Catalog and order a movie today.

[statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/lbph/services/descriptive -videos](http://statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/lbph/services/descriptive-videos)



DIGITAL TAR HEEL TALK

Tar Heel Talk has a new digital only edition. They are released in the summer and winter between the paper editions of Tar Heel Talk. If you would like to receive the digital newsletter, please sign up to be put on our newsletter list by visiting the link below:

statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/lbph/outreach/tar-heel-talk/digitalnewsletter-subscribe

CHOICE MAGAZINE LISTENING

Choice Magazine Listening (CML) is a free audio magazine for adults with impaired vision or other disability. Four times a year, listeners can download or receive by mail 12 hours of great stories and articles chosen from 100 of the finest magazines, absolutely free of charge. All CML's selections are wonderfully read by some of America's top audiobook narrators. CML subscribers include those with conditions such as low vision, macular degeneration, blindness, MS, diabetes, cerebral palsy, ALS, dyslexia, and Parkinson's. If someone you know would enjoy this free service, please call 1-888-724-6423 or visit: choicemagazinelistening.org

TIPS FOR BETTER SERVICE

- Please be sure to return cartridges in the container that matches the book or magazine.
- If you receive large print or audio magazines, please return them to the library when you are finished reading them.
- If there is a problem with a cartridge or the cartridge is missing, put a note in the case or a rubber band around the damaged cartridge. Please do not write on the cartridge, case, or any labels on these items.
- If you often replace your smartphone, there is a maximum number of devices you can have registered with BARD. Please notify us when you get a new phone so we can delete the old one from your account.
- Please contact us if your phone number or email address changes.

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Post Office, Sanford 001

From PhC.184 Massengill Postcard Collection, State Archives of North Carolina, Raleigh, NC

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: ROBERT

Mr. Robert Blue, III volunteers at our library as a narrator. He's worked on many of the library's productions, including a list of magazines and *The Third Reconstruction*, by Reverend William Barber. Like the rest of our volunteers, Mr. Blue has not been able to volunteer with us since we had to suspend our service back in March of this year. He has agreed to do an interview for this newsletter about his role as a narrator for the North Carolina Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

Q: What drew you to volunteer for our library?

A: I was talking with a Realtor regarding my home and she told me about the care she was providing for her blind elderly mother. Part of that weekly care was the listening of her favorite magazines and books. She remarked that I had a beautiful radio commentator type voice and asked had I ever thought of using it to read to the blind. She told me about the NCLBPH and I made the call.

Q: Did you initially want to be a narrator, or did you have something else in mind?



A: I always wanted to be a narrator. I was a radio broadcaster in college and always wanted to be a sports broadcaster.

Q: When did you start volunteering with our library?

A: I'm really not sure, probably April of 2016.

Q: What project have you worked on that is the most memorable?

A: My most challenging and memorable project was the narration of the Rev. William Barber III's book *The Third Reconstruction* that was carried by the National Library Service, BARD.

Q: Do you have a favorite magazine you like to record? What about it do you like?

A: NC Wildlife because of my love for animals, fishing and the outdoors.

Q: What do you enjoy most about volunteering at our library?

A: Giving back to those less fortunate and Feeling as though I am making a difference in my community.



“Tar Heel Talk” is a quarterly publication of the N.C. Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NCLBPH), State Library of North Carolina, and N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

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